

REMARKS

Applicants have amended claims 1, 4, 7, 8 and 13, and canceled claims 9 and 21. Accordingly, claims 1, 3-4, 6-8 and 10-20 remain pending in the application.

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging that claim 15 defines patentable subject matter, and would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and reexamine the present application in view of the foregoing Amendments and the following Remarks.

35 U.S.C. § 102 & 103

The previous Office Action rejected claims 1, 4, 7-8, and 11-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 over Hasebe et al. U.S. Patent 5,826,129 ("Hasebe"); and claims 3, 6 and 10 over Hasebe in view of Applicants' Admitted Prior Art ("AAPA").

As amended, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 4, 7-8, and 11-20 are now all patentable over Hasebe, and claims 3, 6 and 10 are patentable over Hasebe in view of AAPA.

As amended, claim 1 now clearly recites that clean air flows downward from the cooling and the bake units to the adhesion unit. Claims 4, 8 and 13 have also been amended to recite similar features.

In contrast, Hasebe discloses the adhesion unit AD installed at a higher position than the cooling unit COL, as seen in FIG. 4, so that the deteriorating gas

generated by the adhesion unit flows toward the cooling unit COL.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims 1, 3-4, 6-8 and 10-20 are patentable over Hasebe alone, or in combination with the AAPA.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner allow claims 1, 3-4, 6-8 and 10-20 and pass the application to issue.


In the event that there are any outstanding matters remaining in the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact Kenneth D. Springer (Reg. No. 39,843) at (703) 715-0870 to discuss these matters.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0238 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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